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# Challenging Teamster leadership

Continued from preceding page

Doty, then the most outspoken member of TDU, had been pushed down a flight of 14 stairs by a union official in Local 829, then kicked and shoved out a door. He had been passing out campaign literature in a Local 829 election for a TDU candidate, Lawrence Hice, who was running for the union's executive board.

The union official was later convicted on an assault charge, according to Mark Stern, an attorney for TDU. Stern said Doty also won a civil case against Local 829 officials, charging they violated his union rights to engage in a free election.

"It was not the mob, but it's certainly mob-type tactics," Stern says. "You threaten, you put pressure on a person, and if none of that works you assault."

Teamster officials say the Doty case was an isolated incident, due to hot tempers among union members during the election.

But to many, the message was clear.

At Local 25 meetings, under whose jurisdiction he now worked, Robbins says he and others who spoke up to defend the TDU, ask for information or question pay raises for Teamster officials were greeted by jeers from members loyal to McCarthy. McCarthy, he added, would always identify him as being a member of TDU or "that group" when he demanded to speak.

"I'd stand and people would kick my chair. It was always very intimidating to speak at a meeting of Local 25."

Once after he defended the TDU at a meeting, Robbins said McCarthy launched into a "long rambling talk" about people getting hurt in barrooms if they talked too much about being bigger than the union.

Worried at first, Robbins said he eventually dismissed such events.

But fewer and fewer people spoke at meetings, he said, and the dissident movement began losing followers. "In the Teamsters, the business agent can be a big help in directing you to a new job. You're not going to get that help if you're active in TDU," said a driver and former TDU member who asked not to be identified. "Everybody knows that."

Some TDU activists, like Salemme, simply dropped out after being elected to office. But others were being fired, appealing their cases to a joint board of employers and Teamster officials, and losing.

One such case brought Robbins, Doty and Jerry Crowley to Worcester Teamster Local 170 to pass out copies of a dissident newspaper, "The Hub," outside the union hall. The issue decried the firing of a UPS worker who supported reform.

Within minutes, more than a dozen Teamsters poured out of the union hall, forcing them to flee to their car. Surrounding them, Robbins said the gang pounded and rocked the car trying to get in. "We managed to get free and drive away, but it was scary for all of us," Robbins recalls.

In the years since, Robbins insists, harassment and fear of job loss rather than open violence kept the ranks of the TDU thin.

Deregulation of the trucking industry worsened the problems, he added, and cot thousands of union jobs and left those that have managed to hang onto work more afraid than ever of crossing the Teamster leadership. Local 25 in Charlestown alone lost more than 3,000 members.

But the losses from deregulation, combined with repeated contract concessions approved by national Teamster officials, have sparked a new militancy among the rank and file that Robbins and others see as boosting the TDU's fortunes.

"It's true in the Boston area, TDU hasn't been able to take much control," Robbins concedes. "But I think the current dissension over the national contracts has a lot to do with TDU publicizing open opposition to those contracts."

"At least we're an opposition view. And there aren't many of those in this union."

## BUSINESS CALENDAR

**Sept. 26**

**The Boston Security Analysts Society; luncheon;** Alexander Parris Room, Quincy Market, noon; guest speaker: Sal Giordano Jr., chief executive officer and vice chairman, Fedders Corp. Peapack, N.J. Information and reservations: (617)266-8670.

**Boston Bar Association, Continuing Legal Education Program;** State Street Bank and Trust Co., Enterprise Room, 225 Franklin St., 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Sept. 27**

**Service Corps of Retired Executives, Boston Chapter 20; sponsored by US Small Business Administration; annual luncheon;** Marriott Hotel, Newton, noon; guest speaker: Paula Gold, Massachusetts Director of Consumer Affairs. A Gold Card, a national lifetime honor will be presented to Elmer Brown of Brockton, and five other awards will be presented, including one to the United Way of Massachusetts Bay Volunteer of the year, Maurice White. For further information, please call (617) 782-6154.

**The New England-Canada Business Council; meeting and reception;** Hotel Meridien, 12:30 p.m.; guest speaker: Charles R. Bronfman, co-chairman of the Seagram Company Ltd.; topic: "The Similarities and Differences Between the United States and Canada. Information and reservations: Arlene Heroux, (617) 227-4500.

**Sept. 28**

**Central Co-operative Bank, Somerville; annual meeting;** Bank of Boston, 100 Federal St., 1:30 p.m. Information: Gladys Partamian, (617) 628-4000.

**Boston Bar Association; annual meeting;** Park Plaza Hotel, 50 Arlington St., 8:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m.; panel of speakers; program topic: "Boston's Next Decade: Challenges in Law and Public Policy." Information: (617) 742-0615.

**The Publicity Club of Boston; luncheon meeting;** Anthony's Pier 4, 11:30 a.m. guest speaker: Larry Moulter, president of the Boston Garden; topic: "Sixty Years at the Boston Garden." Information or reservations: (617) 449-4464.

**High-Tech Breakfast Forum; Biweekly vendor networking;** El Torito, Granite Street, South Shore Plaza, exit off 128, 7:45 a.m. -9 a.m. Information: Paul Surface, (617) 439-0028.

**Bentley College Forum on Government;** college's Graduate Pavillion, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; guest speaker: General James M. Shannon, Massachusetts Attorney General; topic: "The Relationship Between Government and Business. Lecture free and open to the public. For more information, call (617) 891-2652.

**Amex Club of Boston; luncheon;** The Meridien, 12 - 1:15 p.m.; Mitchell Energy & Development Corp. Information and reservations: (617)371-7177.

**Sept. 29**

**Computer Associates International Inc.; project management seminar;** Hotel Meridien, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. The two hour seminar includes: "An Overview of Project Management Principles" and a discussion of real-life project management applications and how Computer Associates' SuperProject Family addresses the needs of various industries. Information: Jayme Kelly, (408)432-1727 ext. 3438.

**The Boston Security Analysts Society, luncheon;** Alexander Parris, Quincy Market, noon; guest speaker: Edward A. Crooke, president and CEO, utility operations, Baltimore Gas and Electric Co., and Christian H. Poindexter, president and CEO, Constellaton Holdings Inc. Information and reservations: (617) 266-8670.

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